OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES
AND DISEASES IN **ALBERTA**

Lost-Time Claims, Disabling Injury
Claims and Claim Rates

Forestry and Related Industries

2004 to 2008

Summer 2009

WORK SAFE
ALBERTA

Government of Alberta
Employment
and Immigration

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INTRODUCTION

Role of the Ministry of Employment and Immigration

The Ministry of Employment and Immigration includes the reporting entity of the Department of Employment and Immigration (E&I). E&I develops and delivers policies, programs and services to foster labour force development; ensure fair, safe and healthy workplaces; and help those in need. The Department also provides leadership for immigration and interprovincial labour mobility policy for the Government of Alberta, and coordinates resources to support the settlement and integration of new Albertans. The Occupational Health and Safety Council (OHSC) is an administrative body that performs an advisory function in accordance with the power and authority specified under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta – Forestry and Related Industries 2004 to 2008

E&I prepares this annual report to provide analysis of workplace health and safety information to meet the demand from industry and safety associations, labour organizations, employers and workers for incorporating this information into their strategic plans for enhancing workplace health and safety. This includes:

- descriptions of programs and initiatives undertaken in pursuit of its workplace health and safety mission and goals;
- analysis of provincial occupational injury and disease information;
- estimations of the risk of injury or disease at the provincial, industry sector and sub-sector level as well as general descriptions about the incidents and injured workers.

The *Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta* publications present analysis of aggregate injury claim data to allow for the tracking of workplace health and safety performance over time. This is important for evaluating past and present performance, and in providing strategic information for the direction of workplace health and safety policy. The analysis contained in this report provides a comprehensive picture of workplace injuries in the province, allowing for a prevention focus to be made based on injury probabilities, rather than possibilities.

Healthy and Productive Workplaces

E&I promotes safe, healthy and productive workplaces, as well as fair, equitable and stable labour relations to ensure a fair, safe and healthy work environment for Alberta's workers. Work is central to people's lives, and to the stability of families and societies.

People want work that provides them with an acceptable standard of living. It is important that workers enter an environment where their health and safety are protected, where they are treated with respect and they are compensated fairly for the job they are doing. This results in an attractive workplace that furthers the position of Alberta employers to be competitive in the global economy (see Note 1.1). Alongside the human cost of occupational injuries and diseases and the impact on families and society, the economic costs are numerous.

Note 1.1
Research by the International Institute for Management Development and the World Economic Forum suggests that the safest-working countries also have the best competitiveness ratings
(ILO, XVIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, Introductory Report: Decent Work-Safe Work, September 2005).

Direct compensation payments for occupational injury and disease by WCB are projected to total $740 million in 2009.[1] These costs are ultimately paid by employers through premium payments, and impact the costs of running a business as well as the final cost of delivering products and services. Further costs associated with occupational injuries and diseases include the material damage to equipment and premises, the additional cost of hiring staff to cover for injured workers, and the lost productivity resulting from the absence. Additional impacts of poor health and safety for employers include higher absenteeism and lower morale of employees, loss of skilled and experienced employees, loss of the company's investment in training, and difficulty recruiting high-quality employees due to the loss of image (particularly in the case of sub-contractors to larger companies) all leading to losses in productivity and underutilization of production (see Note 1.2).

Other costs borne by the economy and society due in part to work-related injuries and diseases include early retirements, unemployment and poorer households. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that in high-income countries, around 40% of all retirements (before statutory age) are caused by disability. This is equivalent to around 14% of the lifetime working capacity of the employed labour force.[2] Occupational injuries and diseases also affect unemployment and household income levels. Workers with an impairment of capacity can reduce their re-employability and impact household income. Workplace injuries and diseases typically reduce the overall earnings of households and in certain cases, family members have to give up jobs in order to care for an injured worker.

Note 1.2
The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that approximately 4% of Gross Domestic Product is lost due to occupational injuries and diseases (*ILO, World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2009 –Facts on safety and health at work issues, April 2009).*

[1] See the Workers Compensation Board Alberta 2009 Premium Rate Manual http://www.wcb.ab.ca/pdfs/employers/09_premium_rate_manual.pdf
[2] See the International Labour Organization report: Safety in numbers – pointers for a global safety culture at work http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/worldday/report_eng.pdf

A few notes about this report:

- This report presents 2008 data beside 2007 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.
- Information presented in this report is based on incidents that occurred during 2008 and accepted as lost-time or modified work claims by Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta (WCB) as of March 31, 2009.
- About 80% of employed persons in Alberta are covered by WCB. This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and parts of the agriculture and finance sectors. Several professional groups (i.e. the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.
- Injury claim rates based on a small number of person-years worked are too volatile to make valid comparisons over time. Therefore, claim rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 40 person-years worked. Duration rates are also volatile when based on a small number of lost-time claims. Duration rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.
- Estimates of year-over-year change for rates presented in this report are calculated using unrounded figures and may not match those produced from rounded figures. Percentages displayed in tables may also not total 100, due to rounding.
- Throughout the report, the lost-time claim rate is the number of lost-time claims per 100 person-years worked, the disabling injury rate is the number of disabling injury claims per 100 person-years worked and the duration rate is the number of days lost per 100 person-years worked. Fatality rates are expressed as the number of fatalities per million person-years worked.
- Analyses by industry are based on WCB industry classification and aggregation. For more information see http://ds.wcb.ab.ca/WCB.RateManual.WebServer/alphaindex.aspx.
- Analyses by occupation group are based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC). The NOC provides a standard list of occupations across the country. For more information see http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC.
- Occupational injuries and diseases listed throughout this report are based on the Z795 Coding of Work Injury or Disease Information produced by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) for categorizing occupational injury and disease. For information see http://www.shopcsa.ca/onlinestore/GetCatalogItemDetails.asp?mat=2416404.
- Terms, definitions and formulas used throughout this report are described in Appendix A.

PROVINCIAL SUMMARY

The positive trend continues: there were fewer injuries reported and more person-years worked in 2008.

In recent years, improvements were made to the analysis of WCB claim information allowing for modified work claims to be analyzed alongside lost-time claims. Using modified work claim data in addition to lost-time claim data ensures a more comprehensive picture of workplace injuries, and allows for greater insight into incident prevention.

A lost-time claim is a claim submitted to the WCB for an occupational injury or disease that causes a worker to have time away from work beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function (for example, hearing loss).

Note 2.1

- **The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker requiring time away from work, during a period of one year of work.**
- **The disabling injury rate represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury.**

A modified work claim is submitted for an occupational injury or disease where workers have their normal work duties altered enabling them to remain working without losing time from work. Included in the figures are claims where injured workers are helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease, and cases where workers were provided modified duties prior to time lost because of an injury or disease.

Modifying an injured worker's duties can be beneficial for both an employer and an employee. For the employer, the financial cost of an absent worker can be high and returning an injured employee to work as soon as it is medically possible is important for properly managing compensation, disability claims and productivity levels. For the employee, returning to work as soon as medically possible is beneficial both physically and psychologically, and is linked to quicker recovery rates and higher self-esteem. Long absences from the workplace are also linked to decreases in labour market attachment.

The number of disabling injury claims reflects both the lost-time and modified work concepts and produces an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables a worker causing either time lost from work or for normal work duties to be modified.

In 2008, a total of 31,410 lost-time claims were accepted by WCB. This is a decrease of 8.2% from 2007. In contrast, the person-years worked estimates increased by 3.7% to 1,671,916 between 2007 and 2008 (see Table 2.1). Expressed as a lost-time claim rate, the data translates into a rate of 1.88 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of 11.6% from 2007, as proportionately there were fewer lost-time injury claims. The 2008 rate is

the lowest in the past eighteen years, and since 1991 the lost-time claim rate has decreased by 54.5%. Since 2004, the lost-time claim rate has decreased by 26.2%.

Table 2.1
Provincial Figures – Alberta: 2007 and 2008

	2007	2008	% Change
Person-years worked	1,611,892	**1,671,916**	3.7%
Lost-time claims	34,227	**31,410**	-8.2%
Lost-time claim rate	2.12	**1.88**	**-11.6%**
Modified work claims	42,491	**51,725**	21.7%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	14,245	**22,443**	57.6%
Disabling injury claims	62,473	**60,692**	-2.9%
Disabling injury rate	3.88	**3.63**	**-6.3%**
Duration rate	48	**41**	-13.9%
Days lost (LTC)	767,671	**689,523**	-10.2%
Compensation payments (LTC)	$219,296,722	**$211,054,921**	-3.8%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The total number of modified work claims submitted in 2008 was 51,725, an increase of 21.7%. There were 22,443 claims involving both lost-time and modified work, producing 60,692 disabling injury claims, a decrease of 2.9% from 2007. The number of lost-time claims involving modified work increased by 57.6% from 2007, indicative of improving claims management. Expressed as a rate, the 2008 disabling injury rate was 3.63 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of 6.3% from the 2007 rate of 3.88.

Estimates of injury and disease severity are calculated using information on the number of days lost from work. Three basic measures of severity are the duration rate, median days lost from work and average days lost from work. The severity of the injuries and diseases decreased in 2008, as reflected by a lower duration rate and a decrease in average days lost. The effort of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers back into the workforce also has a positive impact on work days lost. The duration rate of 41 days lost per 100 person-years worked was 13.9% lower than in 2007. The median number of work days lost in 2008 was seven, the same as 2007, and the average days lost decreased to 22.0, from 22.4 in 2007.

Table 2.2 displays the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates for the province, and also for the major industry sectors in Alberta. The data provides a useful setting for analyzing the health and safety performance of the Forestry and Forest Products Manufacturing industries. The Forestry industries include two specific industries that are part of the Agriculture and Forestry major sector. These are the Logging and Woodlands Operations (including Trucking of Logs) sub-sector and the Timber Management sub-sector.

In 2008, the lost-time claim rate for the Forestry industries of 2.66 per 100 person-years worked was higher than most of the major sectors. The disabling injury rate for the

Forestry industries of 3.80 per 100 person-years worked was higher than five major sectors but lower than the Construction and Construction Trade Services sector, the Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging sector and the Transportation, Communication and Utilities sector.

Table 2.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by Major Sector – Alberta: 2007 and 2008

Major Sector	2007		2008	
	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate
Alberta	2.12	3.88	**1.88**	**3.63**
Agriculture and Forestry	2.99	3.75	**2.72**	**3.65**
Business, Personal and Professional Services	1.30	1.86	**1.20**	**1.79**
Construction and Construction Trade Services	2.32	5.0[illegible]	**1.91**	**4.65**
Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging	2.75	6.50	**2.24**	**5.78**
Mining and Petroleum Development	0.76	3.02	**0.66**	**2.92**
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	2.44	3.14	**2.29**	**3.00**
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	2.94	4.70	**2.69**	**4.42**
Wholesale and Retail	2.17	3.55	**1.99**	**3.44**
Forestry Industries	3.27	4.16	**2.66**	**3.80**
Forest Products Manufacturing Industries	1.82	4.28	**1.44**	**3.52**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The Forest Products Manufacturing industries include five industries that form parts of the Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging major sector, but have forest related activities. These are the Sawmills and Planing Mills sub-sector, the Peeling and Pointing of Posts sub-sector, the Treating of Timber sub-sector, the Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills sub-sector and the Pulp Mills sub-sector.

In 2008, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries had a lost-time claim rate of 1.44 per 100 person-years worked. The rate was lower than most sectors although higher than the lost-time claim rates for the Business, Personal and Professional Services sector and the Mining and Petroleum Development sector. The disabling injury rate of 3.52 per 100 person-years worked was higher than four of the major sectors but lower than the disabling injury rate for the Agriculture and Forestry sector, the Construction and Construction Trade Services sector, the Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging sector and the Transportation, Communication and Utilities sector.

PART 1

FORESTRY INDUSTRIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Lower lost-time and disabling injury rates in 2008.

- In 2008, the Forestry industries lost-time claim rate decreased by 18.9% to 2.66 per 100 person-years worked, from 3.27 in 2007. The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province was 1.88 per 100 person-years worked.
- In 2008, the Forestry industries had a duration rate of 130, a 34.4% decrease from the 2007 rate of 198. This duration rate is over three times higher than the provincial rate of 41 days lost per 100 person-years worked.
- The disabling injury rate decreased by 8.6%, from 4.16 per 100 person-years worked in 2007 to 3.80 in 2008. The average disabling injury rate for all sectors in the province was 3.63 per 100 person-years worked.
- The decreases in the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates in 2008 were the result of a decrease in the number of lost-time and disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims decreased by 30.2% and disabling injury claims by 21.3%. The person-years worked estimates decreased by 13.9%.

Smaller employers experienced the highest injury rates.

- Employers with 20 to 39 person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate in 2008 at 3.81 per 100 person-years worked. This was followed by employers with less than 10 person-years worked at 2.81. Employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 0.55 per 100 person-years worked.
- For disabling injury rates, employers with 20 to 39 person-years worked had the highest rate at 6.27, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked at 4.00.
- Employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked had the largest difference between the lost-time claim rate and the disabling injury rate.

Mixed results by sub-sector.

- Lost-time claim and disabling injury rates increased in the Logging and Woodlands Operations (including Trucking of Logs) sub-sector in 2008.
- The Timber Management sub-sector displayed decreases in lost-time and disabling injury rates.
- The Forestry industries accounted for 0.3% of the person-years worked in the province, 0.4% of the lost-time claims, and 0.2% of modified work claims and when combined, 0.3% of the disabling injury claims.

In 2008, sprains, strains and tears were the most common nature of injury.

- Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury, accounting for 42.8% of the disabling injury claims submitted in the Forestry industries. Lost-time claims connected with fractures and dislocations however, had a proportion 3.0 times higher than the average for all sectors, indicating a higher likelihood of this type of injury occurring.
- The lower extremities were the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 27.7% of all disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims connected with the other head parts displayed a proportion that was 3.3 times the average for all sectors.
- The primary sources of injury causing disabling injury claims were persons, plants, animals and minerals accounting for 34.0% of the disabling injury claims, followed by structures and surfaces, 18.9%. Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, other persons, plants, animals and minerals displayed a proportion for lost-time claims that was 5.5 times higher than the average for all sectors.
- In 2008, the most common type of event or exposure was bodily reaction or exertion which accounted for 27.0% of lost-time claims and 34.6% of disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims caused by other falls however had a proportion that was 5.2 times the average for all sectors.
- The median work days lost was 18, compared to the provincial figure of seven. The average days lost per claim was 49 days lost compared to the average for all sectors in the province, 22 days per claim.

INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY

The 2008 lost-time claim rate for the Forestry industries was 2.66, while the disabling injury rate was 3.80 per 100 person-years worked.

In 2008, there were 111 lost-time claims and 159 disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries, representing less than one percent of the total lost-time and disabling injury claims in the province. The Forestry industries' lost-time claim rate decreased by 18.9% to 2.66 per 100 person-years worked. The disabling injury rate decreased by 8.6% to 3.80 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 4.1).

The decreases in the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates were the result of decreases in the number of injury claims. Lost-time claims decreased by 30.2% and disabling injury claims by 21.3%. Person-years worked estimates decreased by 13.9% in 2008. The 2008 provincial lost-time claim rate was 1.88 and the disabling injury rate was 3.63 per 100 person-years.

Table 4.1
Forestry Industries — Alberta: 2007-2008

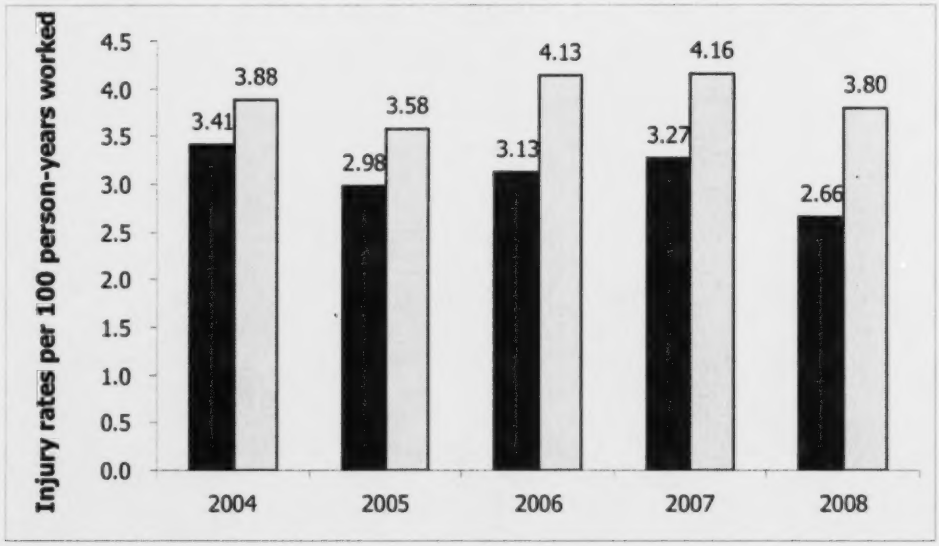
	2007	2008	% Change
Person-years	4,856	**4,180**	-13.9%
Lost-time claims	159	**111**	-30.2%
Lost-time claim rate	**3.27**	**2.66**	**-18.9%**
Modified work claims	68	**91**	33.8%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	25	**43**	72.0%
Disabling injury claims	202	**159**	-21.3%
Disabling injury rate	**4.16**	**3.80**	**-8.6%**
Duration rate	198	**130**	-34.4%
Days lost (LTC)	9,600	**5,424**	-43.5%
Compensation payments	$1,985,468	**$1,578,431**	-20.5%

Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Estimates of injury and disease severity are calculated using information on the number of days lost from work. Three basic measures of severity are the duration rate, median days lost from work and average days lost from work. The severity of injuries and diseases decreased in 2008, as reflected by a lower duration rate and a decrease in median and average days lost. The efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers back into the workforce also impacts work days lost. In 2008, the Forestry industries had a duration rate of 130 days lost per 100 person-years worked, a 34.4% decrease from the 2007 rate of 198. The median work days lost was 18, compared to the provincial figure of seven. The average days lost per claim was 49 compared to the average for all sectors in the province, 22 days per claim. Therefore, claims in the Forestry industries have relatively high severity compared to claims filed in other sectors.

Chart 4.1 shows historical lost-time and injury rates for the Forestry industries. The lost-time claim rate for the Forestry industries has decreased by 22.0% since 2004. This rate is smaller than the average decrease seen for all sectors of the province, 26.2%. Since 2004, the disabling injury rate decreased by 2.1%. For all sectors in the province, the disabling injury rate decreased by 9.2% since 2004.

Chart 4.1
Injury Rates for the Forestry Industries — Alberta: 2004 - 2008[3]



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Size of Employer

In the Forestry industries, employers with 20 to 39 person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate in 2008 at 3.81 per 100 person-years worked. This was followed by employers with less than 10 person-years worked at 2.81. Employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 0.55 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 4.2).

For disabling injury rates, employers with 20 to 39 person-years worked had the highest rate at 6.27, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked. Employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked had the largest difference between the lost-time claim rate and the disabling injury rate.

For all sectors of the province, employers with 20 to 39 person-years and employers with 40 to 99 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rates at 2.22 and 2.14 per 100 person-

[3] Disabling Injury Rates are available from 2004 onwards. The rate in 2004 was produced using a 27 month period to capture information on submitted claims in the 2004 calendar year. From 2005, a consistent 15 month period has been used to capture claims for particular years, in line with the methodology for the production of Lost-Time Claim Rates.

years worked. Employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest disabling injury rate at 4.02 per 100 person-years.

Table 4.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rate by Size[4] of Employer — Forestry Industries: 2008

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	Person-Years Worked	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate
Less than 10 person-years worked	1,993	1,850	52	55	2.81	2.97
10 to 19 person-years worked	58	831	18	22	2.17	2.65
20 to 39 person-years worked	30	813	31	51	3.81	6.27
40 to 99 person-years worked	9	550	3	22	0.55	4.00
100 or more person-years worked	1	136	2	3	1.47	2.20
Unspecified*	1	0	5	6	N/A	N/A

* These are employers with no payroll information or with person-years worked equal to zero.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of Injury Claims

Table 4.3 presents figures for the proportion of employers in the Forestry industries with no lost-time and the proportion of employers with no disabling injury claims. Table 4.4 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

In 2008, 96% of employers had no lost-time claims and 96% of employers had no disabling injury claims, meaning the injuries and diseases happening in the province are the result of incidents occurring at the operations of less than 5% of employers (see Table 4.3). For all sectors in the province, 93% of employers submitted no lost-time claims and 92% no disabling injury claims. These figures however, are influenced by employer size. In 2008, the number of employers with no lost-time claims and the number of employers with no disabling injury claims translates to 70% and 65% of the total person-years worked in the Forestry industries respectively (see Table 5.6).

Employers who submitted one to five lost-time claims and employers who submitted one to five disabling injury claims accounted for around 30% and 34% of the total person-years worked in the Forestry industries respectively. Employers who submitted six or more disabling injury claims accounted for 2% of the total person-years worked in the Forestry industries.

[4] Size is measured in terms of person-years worked. One person-year worked is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year.

Table 4.3
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims – Forestry Industries: 2008

Proportion of Employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forestry Industries	96%	96%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For employers with submitted claims, 77% submitted one lost-time claim, 23% two to five lost-time claims. For disabling injury claims, similar proportions exist although reflect the prevalence of a wider range of injuries (see Table 4.4).

Table 4.4
Proportion of Employers with Claims – Forestry Industries: 2008

1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
77%	23%	0%	0%
1 Disabling Injury Claim	**2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims**	**6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims**	**Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims**
72%	25%	3%	0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The Timber Management sub-sector had the highest injury rates of the Forestry industries.

Between 2004 and 2008, the Timber Management sub-sector had the highest lost-time claim rate of the two Forestry industries. Lost-time claim rates in both industries were higher in Logging and Woodland Operations sub-sector and the Timber Management sub-sector than the provincial average each year (see Table 5.1).

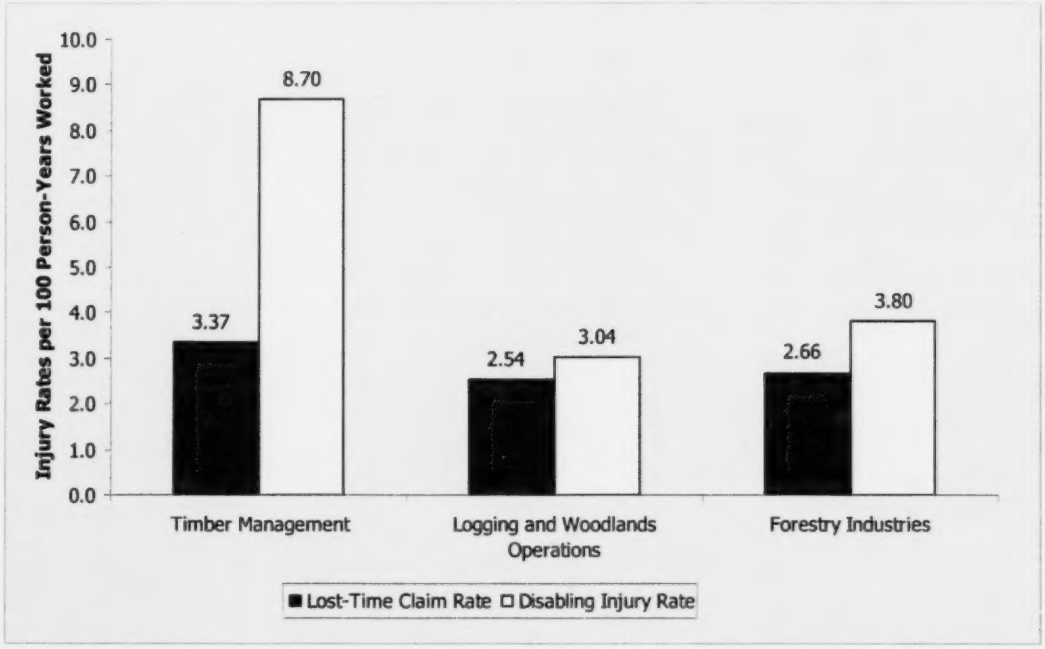
Table 5.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate for the Forestry Industries — Alberta: 2004 - 2008

Sub-Sector	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Forestry	3.41	2.98	3.13	3.27	**2.66**
Logging and Woodlands Operations	2.95	2.54	2.76	2.53	**2.54**
Timber Management	6.21	7.04	6.01	8.34	**3.37**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2008, the Timber Management sub-sector had the highest lost-time claim and disabling injury rates in the Forestry industries at 3.37 and 8.70 per 100 person-years worked (see Chart 5.1). The Logging and Woodlands Operations sub-sector is the larger of the two industries and accounted for 82.9% of the lost-time claims, 69.2% of disabling injury claims and 86.5% of person-years worked in the Forestry industries.

Chart 5.1
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Claim Rates for the Forestry Industries — Alberta: 2008



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Logging and Woodlands Operations (including Trucking of Logs)

The 2008 lost-time claim rate for the Logging and Woodlands Operations sub-sector was 2.54 per 100 person-years worked, a 0.6% increase from 2007. The number of lost-time claims decreased by 14.0% and the person-years worked decreased by 14.5%. The disabling injury rate increased by 3.0% in 2008, to 3.04 per 100 person-years worked. Disabling injury claims decreased by 12.0%.

The duration rate for the Logging and Woodlands Operations sub-sector decreased in 2008 to 143 days lost per 100 person-years worked, more than three times the average rate for all sectors of the province, 41 (see Table 5.2).

Since 2004, the lost-time claim rate for the Logging and Woodlands Operations sub-sector decreased by 13.8% compared to the average for all Forestry industries, 22.0%, and the average for all sectors in the province 26.2%.

Table 5.2
Logging and Woodlands Operations, including Trucking of Logs — Alberta: 2007-2008

	2007	2008	% Change
Person-years worked	4,232	**3,617**	-14.5%
Lost-time claims	107	**92**	-14.0%
Lost-time claim rate	**2.53**	**2.54**	**0.6%**
Modified work claims	33	**52**	57.6%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	15	**34**	126.7%
Disabling injury claims	125	**110**	-12.0%
Disabling injury rate	**2.95**	**3.04**	**3.0%**
Duration rate	193	**143**	-25.9%
Days lost (LTC)	8,182	**5,182**	-36.7%
Compensation payments (LTC)	$1,760,144	**$1,530,900**	-13.0%

Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Timber Management

In 2008, the Timber Management sub-sector had a lost-time claim rate of 3.37 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of 59.6% from 2007. This was the result of a 63.5% decrease in the number of lost-time claims. Person-years worked estimates decreased by 9.6%. The disabling injury rate decreased by 29.6% in 2008, to 8.70 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 5.3). The duration rate in the Timber Management sub-sector decreased by 81.1% to 43 days lost per 100 person-years worked.

Since 2004, the lost-time claim rate for the Timber Management sub-sector decreased by 45.7% compared to the average for all Forestry industries, 22.0%, and the average for all sectors in the province 26.2%.

Table 5.3
Timber Management — Alberta: 2007-2008

	2007	2008	% Change
Person-years worked	624	**564**	-9.6%
Lost-time claims	52	**19**	-63.5%
Lost-time claim rate	**8.34**	**3.37**	**-59.6%**
Modified work claims	35	**39**	11.4%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	10	**9**	-10.0%
Disabling injury claims	77	**49**	-36.4%
Disabling injury rate	**12.35**	**8.70**	**-29.6%**
Duration rate	227	**43**	-81.1%
Days lost (LTC)	1,418	**242**	-82.9%
Compensation payments (LTC)	$225,324	**$47,531**	-78.9%

Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of injury claims

Table 5.4 presents figures for the proportion of employers without lost-time and employers without disabling injury claims in 2008, by industry. Table 5.5 displays the respective person-years for those employers in 2008. Table 5.6 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

The Logging and Woodland Operations sub-sector displayed a higher proportion of employers with no lost-time or disabling injury claims, indicating a more highly concentrated occurrence of injury in that sub-sector. This figure however, is influenced by employer size. In 2008, the number of employers with no lost-time claims translates to 70% of the total person-years worked in this sub-sector (see Table 5.5).

Table 5.4
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forestry industries – Alberta: 2008

Proportion of Employers by Sub-Sector	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forestry Industries	**96%**	**96%**
Timber Management	92%	91%
Logging and Woodlands Operations	96%	96%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Table 5.5
Proportion of Person-years accounted for by Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forestry industries – Alberta: 2008

Proportion of person-years accounted for by employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forestry Industries	**70%**	**65%**
Timber Management	70%	53%
Logging and Woodlands Operations	69%	67%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For employers who did submit claims, the Logging and Woodlands Operations sub-sector also had a higher proportion of employers submitting one lost-time claim and a lower proportion of employers submitting two to five lost-time claims (see Table 5.6).

Table 5.6
Proportion of Employers with Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forestry industries – Alberta: 2008

Sub-Sector	1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
Timber Management	58%	42%	0%	0%
Logging and Woodlands Operations	81%	19%	0%	0%

Sub-Sector	1 Disabling Injury Claim	2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims	6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims	Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims
Timber Management	50%	36%	14%	0%
Logging and Woodlands Operations	76%	23%	1%	0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INJURED WORKERS

Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2008, two occupation groups, Transportation Equipment Operators and Related Workers (Excluding Labourers) and Primary Production Labourers, accounted for over half of lost-time claims and disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries. Occupations Unique to Forestry Operations, Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, and Fishing (Excluding Labourers) accounted for 6.7% and 6.0% of the lost-time claims and disabling injury claims in 2008 (see Table 6.1).

Table 6.1
Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Occupation – Forestry Industries: 2008

Occupation Group	Lost-time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Employment
Transportation Equipment Operators and Related Workers, Excl. Labourers	43.8%	34.7%	3.3%
Primary Production Labourers	7.6%	24.0%	3.8%
Occupations Unique to Forestry Operations, Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, and Fishing, Excluding Labourers	6.7%	6.0%	41.3%
Heavy Equipment and Crane Operators Including Drillers	17.1%	16.0%	N/A*
Mechanics	5.7%	4.0%	9.0%
Technical Occupations Related to Natural and Applied Sciences	5.7%	4.7%	18.9%
All Other Occupations	13.3%	10.7%	23.7%

* Employment figures have been suppressed due to low sample size.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files)

In 2008, workers aged 25 to 34 accounted for 19.8% of lost-time claims and 20.8% of disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries. Young workers aged 15 to 24 accounted for 15.3% of lost-time claims and 27.0% of disabling injury claims (see Table 6.2).

Table 6.2
Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Age — Alberta: 2007-2008

Age	2007 Lost-Time Claims	%	2007 Disabling Injury Claims	%	2008 Lost-Time Claims	%	2008 Disabling Injury Claims	%
15-19 Years	5	3.1%	8	4.0%	**2**	**1.8%**	**4**	**2.5%**
20-24 Years	16	10.1%	29	14.4%	**15**	**13.5%**	**39**	**24.5%**
25-34 Years	51	32.1%	65	32.2%	**22**	**19.8%**	**33**	**20.8%**
35-44 Years	44	27.7%	51	25.2%	**27**	**24.3%**	**32**	**20.1%**
45-54 Years	26	16.4%	28	13.9%	**26**	**23.4%**	**30**	**18.9%**
55-64 Years	15	9.4%	18	8.9%	**15**	**13.5%**	**16**	**10.1%**
65+ Years	2	1.3%	3	1.5%	**4**	**3.6%**	**5**	**3.1%**
Total	**159**	**100.0%**	**202**	**100.0%**	**111**	**100.0%**	**159**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Forestry industries, the majority of claims were from men. In 2008, 93.7% of lost-time claims and 88.0% of disabling injury claims involved men, although men do comprise the majority of those employed[5] with this sector, 88.9%. Lost-time claims and disabling injury claims from women accounted for 6.3% and 12.0% of the total claims respectively (see Table 6.3).

Table 6.3
Lost-Time Claims by Gender — Alberta: 2007-2008

Gender	2007 Lost-Time Claims	%	2007 Disabling Injury Claims	%	2008 Lost-Time Claims	%	2008 Disabling Injury Claims	%
Women	12	7.7%	23	11.6%	**7**	**6.3%**	**19**	**12.0%**
Men	144	92.3%	175	88.4%	**104**	**93.7%**	**139**	**88.0%**
Unspecified	3	N/A	4	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	**1**	**N/A**
Total	**159**	**100.0%**	**202**	**100.0%**	**111**	**100.0%**	**159**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[5] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) information for the Forestry and logging with support activities industry.

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS – FORESTRY INDUSTRIES

Struck by objects and bodily reaction were the most common causes for lost-time and disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the lower extremities being the most commonly injured body part.

Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. In 2008, 91.9% of lost-time claims and 91.2% of disabling injury claims were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The two most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears and fractures and dislocations (see Table 7.1).

Note 7.1
Throughout this section, the classifications used are based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease information.

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forestry industries had the highest proportion[6] of lost-time claims for fractures and dislocations, at 3.0 times the average, indicating a higher probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Lost-time claims for systemic diseases and disorders and for other traumatic injuries and diseases had proportions 2.4 and 1.9 times higher than the average for all sectors. For disabling injury claims these nature of injury categories had proportions that were 2.0, 2.0 and 1.3 times higher than the average for all sectors of the province respectively.

Note 7.2
The CSA standard is designed so that Nature of Injury and Part of Body categories are directly linked when classifying injuries. This is also true for the relationship between the Source of Injury and Type of Event categories.

[6] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forestry industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 7.1
Nature of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2008

Nature of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**102**	**91.9%**	**145**	**91.2%**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	39	35.1%	68	42.8%
Fractures and Dislocations	23	20.7%	24	15.1%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	15	13.5%	21	13.2%
Open Wounds	5	4.5%	7	4.4%
Burns	2	1.8%	3	1.9%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	18	16.2%	22	13.8%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**9**	**8.1%**	**12**	**7.5%**
Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Infectious and Parasitic Disorders	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Nature of Injury - Unknown	**0**	**0.0%**	**2**	**1.3%**
Total	**111**	**100.0%**	**159**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Part of Body Injured

In 2008, the lower extremities was the main injured body part, accounting for 27.9% of the lost-time claims and 27.7% of the disabling injury claims in the Forestry industries. This was followed by the trunk, at 25.2% and 26.4%, and upper extremities, at 17.1% and 20.8% (see Table 7.2).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forestry industries had the highest proportion[7] of lost-time claims for other head parts, at 3.3 times the average, indicating a higher probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Lost-time claims where the legs and the other lower extremities had proportions 2.6 and 2.4 times higher than the average for all sectors. For disabling injury claims these part of body categories had proportions that were 2.4, 1.8 and 1.4 times higher than the average for all sectors of the province respectively.

[7] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forestry industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 7.2
Part of Body Injured — Alberta: 2008

Part of Body Injured	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Trunk	**28**	**25.2%**	**42**	**26.4%**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	14	12.6%	19	11.9%
Other Trunk	14	12.6%	23	14.5%
Lower Extremities	**31**	**27.9%**	**44**	**27.7%**
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	8	7.2%	15	9.4%
Leg(s)	21	18.9%	27	17.0%
Other Lower Extremities	2	1.8%	2	1.3%
Upper Extremities	**19**	**17.1%**	**33**	**20.8%**
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	12	10.8%	18	11.3%
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	6	5.4%	10	6.3%
Other Upper Extremities	1	0.9%	5	3.1%
Head	**18**	**16.2%**	**20**	**12.6%**
Eye(s)	4	3.6%	5	3.1%
Other Head Parts	14	12.6%	15	9.4%
Multiple Body Parts	**11**	**9.9%**	**14**	**8.8%**
Neck, Including Throat	**3**	**2.7%**	**4**	**2.5%**
Body Systems	**0**	**0.0%**	**1**	**0.6%**
Part of Body - Unknown	**1**	**0.9%**	**1**	**0.6%**
Other Body Parts	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Total	**111**	**100.0%**	**159**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that came into contact with the worker and resulted in an injury or disease. In 2008, two primary sources of injury in the Forestry industries accounted for just under half of the lost-time claims and over half of the disabling injury claims. Persons, plants, animals and minerals accounted for 27.9% of lost-time claims and 34.0% of disabling injury claims and structures and surfaces accounted for 21.6% and 18.9% of claims respectively (see Table 7.3).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forestry industries had the highest proportion[8] of lost-time claims for other persons, plants, animals and minerals at 5.5 times the average, indicating a higher probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Lost-time claims for minerals – metallic or nonmetallic (except fuel) and vehicles had proportions 3.2 and 2.6 times higher than the average for all sectors. For disabling injury claims these source of injury categories had proportions that were 5.5, 1.4 and 2.2 times higher than the average for all sectors of the province respectively.

[8] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forestry industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 7.3
Source of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2008

Source of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**31**	**27.9%**	**54**	**34.0%**
Person-Injured or Ill Worker	20	18.0%	38	23.9%
Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	1	0.9%	1	0.6%
Person-Other Than Injured or Ill Worker*	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals	10	9.0%	15	9.4%
Vehicles	**18**	**16.2%**	**24**	**15.1%**
Structures and Surfaces	**24**	**21.6%**	**30**	**18.9%**
Parts and Materials	**9**	**8.1%**	**11**	**6.9%**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**3**	**2.7%**	**8**	**5.0%**
Hand tools - Nonpowered	2	1.8%	5	3.1%
Hand tools - Powered	0	0.0%	1	0.6%
Other Tools and Equipments	1	0.9%	2	1.3%
Machinery	**11**	**9.9%**	**11**	**6.9%**
Containers**	**1**	**0.9%**	**2**	**1.3%**
Furniture and Fixtures	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**0**	**0.0%**	**1**	**0.6%**
Other Sources	**12**	**10.8%**	**14**	**8.8%**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**2**	**1.8%**	**4**	**2.5%**
Total	**111**	**100.0%**	**159**	**100.0%**

* Persons – other than injured or ill worker: classifies workplace injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.
** Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.).
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease. The two most common types of events or exposures in the Forestry industries were bodily reaction and exertion, accounting for 27.0% of lost-time claims and 34.6% of disabling injury claims, and contact with objects and equipment, accounting for 27.0% and 24.5%, respectively (see Table 7.4).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forestry industries had the highest proportion[9] of lost-time claims for other falls at 5.2 times the average, indicating a higher probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Lost-time claims for rubbed or abraded had a proportion 4.6 times higher than the average for all sectors. For disabling injury claims these types of event categories had proportions that were 3.5 and 2.5 times higher than the average for all sectors of the province respectively.

[9] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forestry industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 7.4
Type of Event or Exposure — Alberta: 2008

Type of Event or Exposure	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injuries Claims	%
Bodily Reaction or Exertion	**30**	**27.0%**	**55**	**34.6%**
Bodily Reaction*	13	11.7%	19	11.9%
Repetitive Motion	5	4.5%	14	8.8%
Overexertion	8	7.2%	15	9.4%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	4	3.6%	7	4.4%
Contact with Objects or Equipment	**30**	**27.0%**	**39**	**24.5%**
Struck by Object	16	14.4%	19	11.9%
Caught in Object	4	3.6%	5	3.1%
Struck against Object	3	2.7%	7	4.4%
Rubbed or Abraded	5	4.5%	6	3.8%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	2	1.8%	2	1.3%
Falls	**25**	**22.5%**	**32**	**20.1%**
Fall on Same Level	9	8.1%	15	9.4%
Fall to Lower Level	11	9.9%	11	6.9%
Other Falls	5	4.5%	6	3.8%
Transportation Accidents	**18**	**16.2%**	**21**	**13.2%**
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**7**	**6.3%**	**10**	**6.3%**
Assaults and Violent Acts	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Fires and Explosions	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Other Events or Exposures	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Type of Event - Unknown	**1**	**0.9%**	**2**	**1.3%**
Total	**111**	**100.0%**	**159**	**100.0%**

* Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Duration of Disability

Duration of disability[10] is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. The efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce can also impact workdays lost.

In 2008, 45.9% of the lost-time claims lasted for 31 days or more, while claims with duration of disability 10 days or less accounted for 36.9% of claims (see Table 7.5). For all sectors in the province, lost-time claims resulting in one to ten days lost accounted for 55.2% of the total claims, while those claims which resulted in 31 or more days lost 20.5%.

The median work days lost in 2008 was 18, compared to the provincial figure of seven. The average days lost per claim was 49 days lost compared to the average for all sectors in the province, 22 days per claim.

Table 7.5
Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2008

Duration of Disability	% of Forestry Industries' Lost-Time Claims	% of Lost-Time Claims in the Province
1-5 Days	27.9%	40.9%
6-10 Days	9.0%	14.3%
11-15 Days	2.7%	7.6%
16-20 Days	2.7%	5.0%
21-30 Days	3.6%	6.7%
31-40 Days	7.2%	4.7%
41-50 Days	2.7%	3.2%
51 Days or More	36.0%	12.6%
Unspecified	8.1%	4.8%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[10] The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2008, the WCB accepted two fatalities in the Forestry industries.

A WCB accepted occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker resulting from a work-related incident or exposure which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. The WCB classifies occupational fatalities into three general types:

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. In 2008, one occupational fatality in the Forestry industries was motor vehicle incidents (see Table 8.1).

Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consist of cases in which the worker died at a worksite or as a result of injuries sustained at a worksite. This is the type of fatality that E&I typically investigates. In 2008, one occupational fatality in the Forestry industries was a workplace incident (see Table 8.1).

Latent Workplace and Motor Vehicle Fatalities

Latent fatalities consist of workers who were involved in a workplace incident or exposure, or a motor vehicle incident that did not become a fatality until a much later date, often years later. These incidents were classified as occupational diseases. From 2002, these incidents are separated out and included with either motor vehicle or workplace incident categories in accordance to their original injury.

Usually, other contributing factors cause a latent fatality, although these contributing factors are the result of the initial injury or exposure. A motor vehicle incident, where a worker received leg injuries requiring surgery is a good example of this. Complications during the surgery result in a blood clot causing a fatal stroke. Thus, the injury is classified latent because the original injury caused the requirement for surgery. In 2008, no workplace incident fatalities were latent fatalities.

Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related such as asbestosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis. This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed several years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance, and in such cases, it is difficult to determine when the fatal

exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present worksite hazardous conditions or exposures.*

Each year the WCB accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Occupational fatality claims that were accepted in a particular year may include fatalities from prior years. In 2008, no occupational fatalities in the Forestry industries were due to occupational diseases (see Table 8.1).

Between 2004 and 2008, the WCB accepted 13 fatalities in the Forestry industries. All of the fatalities occurred in the Logging and Woodlands Operations (including Trucking of Logs) sub-sector.

Table 8.1
Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB – Forestry: 2004 - 2008

Year	Motor Vehicle Incident	Workplace Incident	Occupational Disease	Total
2004	1	1	0	2
2005	1	0	0	1
2006	0	3	1	4
2007	0	4	0	4
2008	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**
Total	3	9	1	13

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION - FORESTRY INDUSTRIES

A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are jointly issued by Certifying Partners and E&I[11].

In 2008, 12.2% of Forestry industries' employers were COR holders. These employers represented over half of all person-years worked in the Forestry industries. In the Timber Management sub-sector, 22.4% of employers were certified, covering 70.2% of all person-years worked in this sub-sector (see Table 9.1).

Table 9.1
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2008

Sub-Sector	Number of Certified Employers	Total Number of Employers	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
Forestry	**256**	**2,092**	**12.2%**	**56.9%**
Logging and Woodlands Operations	222	1,940	11.4%	54.9%
Timber Management	34	152	22.4%	70.2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Forestry industries, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders was 2.39 per 100 person-years worked in 2008, while the rate for non-COR holders was 3.00. For disabling injury rates, COR holders had a rate of 4.33 per 100 person-years worked, while the rate for non-COR holders was 3.11 (see Table 9.2).

A low lost-time claim rate and high disabling injury rate can be indicative of proficient claims management. However, it may also be a reflection of larger employers having greater capacity to offer modified duties to injured workers than smaller employers.

Comparing COR holders against all non-COR holders provides useful information about each group, although it does not compare like-with-like. A COR is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards, with this group seeing continued improvement in their lost-time claim rates. Some non-COR holders have good programs in place above this standard, whereas others do not. This makes evaluating improving health and safety trends less clear for this group.

The two groups also differ significantly in employer structure and size. COR holders account for 12.2% of employers in the Forestry industries (see Table 9.1) but 56.9% of the person-years worked. Analysis by employer size for all sectors of the province show

[11] For more information on the COR program visit http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/334.html

smaller employers tend to have better health and safety performance than medium-sized and large employers. For the Forestry industries a different pattern is displayed with smaller employers displaying higher lost-time claim and disabling injury rates (see Table 4.2).

Table 9.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rate for Forestry COR Holders — Alberta: 2007 and 2008

Employer	Year	Number of Accounts	Person-Years Worked	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Change in Lost-Time Claim Rate	Change in Disabling Injury Rate
COR	2007	261	2,621	75	113	2.86	4.31	-16.3%	0.4%
	2008	256	2,380	57	103	2.39	4.33		
Non-COR	2007	2,052	2,235	84	89	3.76	3.98	-20.2%	-21.9%
	2008	1,836	1,800	54	56	3.00	3.11		

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

PART 2

FOREST PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

HIGHLIGHTS

Lower lost-time and higher disabling injury rates in 2008.

- In 2008, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries' lost-time claim rate decreased by 20.8% to 1.44 per 100 person-years worked, from 1.82 in 2007. The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province was 1.88 per 100 person-years worked.
- In 2008, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries had a duration rate of 30, a 21.4% decrease from the 2007 rate of 38. This duration rate is lower than the provincial rate of 41 days lost per 100 person-years worked.
- The disabling injury rate decreased by 17.8%, from 4.28 per 100 person-years worked in 2007 to 3.52 in 2008. The average disabling injury rate for all sectors in the province was 3.63 per 100 person-years worked.
- The decreases in the lost-time rate and disabling injury rate in 2008 were the result of decreases in lost-time and disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims decreased by 30.2% and disabling injury claims by 27.5%.

Smaller employers experienced the highest injury rates.

- Employers with 10 person-years worked or less and employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate at 7.20 and 5.72 per 100 person-years worked in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.
- Employers with 10 person-years worked or less had the highest disabling injury rate at 8.16 per 100 person-years worked.
- Employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 0.99 and lowest disabling injury rate at 2.96 per 100 person-years worked.

Lower injury rates in some industries.

- The Treating of Timber sub-sector displayed a decrease in lost-time rate and an increase in disabling injury rate in 2008.
- The Sawmills and Planing Mills sub-sector displayed decreases in lost-time rate and disabling injury rate.
- The Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills sub-sector displayed an increase in lost-time rate and a decrease in disabling injury rate.
- The Forest Products Manufacturing industries accounted for 0.6% of the person-years worked in the province, 0.5% of the lost-time claims, and 0.7% of modified work claims and when combined, 0.6% of the disabling injury claims.

In 2008, sprains, strains and tears were the most common nature of injury.

- Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury, accounting for 46.7% of the disabling injury claims submitted in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. Disabling injury claims connected with systemic diseases and disorders, however, had a proportion 1.6 times higher than the average for all sectors, indicating a higher likelihood of this type of injury occurring.
- The upper extremities were the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 40.1% of the disabling injury claims. Disabling injury claims connected with fingers and fingernails displayed a proportion that was 1.3 times the average for all sectors.
- The primary sources of injury causing disabling injury claims were parts and materials accounting for 30.6% of the disabling injury claims and persons, plants, animals and minerals accounting for 22.7% of the disabling injury claims. Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, parts and materials, displayed a proportion for lost-time claims that was 2.2 times higher than the average for all sectors.
- In 2008, the most common type of event or exposure was contact with objects and equipment which accounted for 41.2% of disabling injury claims. Disabling injury claims caused by caught in object however had a proportion that was 2.0 times the average for all sectors.
- The median days lost for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was the same as the median days lost for all sectors at seven. The average days lost of 21 was lower than the average figure for all sectors of 22.

INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY

The 2008 lost-time claim and disabling injury rates for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries were 1.44 per 100 person-years and 3.52 per 100 person-years.

In 2008, there were 155 lost-time claims and 379 disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries, representing less than one percent of the total lost-time and disabling injury claims in the province. The Forest Products Manufacturing industries lost-time claim rate was 1.44 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of 20.8% from 2007. The number of lost-time claims decreased by 30.2% and the person-years worked by 11.8%. The disabling injury rate decreased by 17.8% to 3.52 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 11.1). The 2007 lost-time claim rate was 1.82, while the disabling injury rate was 4.28 per 100 person-years worked.

Table 11.1
Forest Products Manufacturing Industries – Alberta: 2007-2008

	2007	2008	% Change
Person-years	12,208	**10,765**	-11.8%
Lost-time claims	222	**155**	-30.2%
Lost-time claim rate	**1.82**	**1.44**	**-20.8%**
Modified work claims	391	**342**	-12.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	90	**118**	31.1%
Disabling injury claims	523	**379**	-27.5%
Disabling injury rate	**4.28**	**3.52**	**-17.8%**
Duration rate	38	**30**	-21.4%
Days lost (LTC)	4,685	**3,247**	-30.7%
Compensation payments	$2,023,298	**$1,314,576**	-35.0%

Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2008, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries had a duration rate of 30 days per 100 person-years worked. The average duration rate for all sectors of the province was 41. The median days lost for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was the same as the median days lost for all sectors at seven. The average days lost of 21 was lower than the average figure for all sectors of 22.

Since 2004, the average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province has decreased by 26.2%. Over the same time period, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries saw a 14.8% decrease, a result of lost-time claims falling by a greater rate than the person-years worked, a 35.1% decrease compared to 23.9%.

Size of Employer

In the Forest Products Manufacturing industries, employers with less than 10 person-years worked and employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate at 7.20 and 5.72 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked had the highest disabling injury rate at 8.16 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 0.99 and lowest disabling injury rate at 2.96 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 11.2).

For the province, employers with 20 to 39 person-years and employers with 40 to 99 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rates at 2.22 and 2.14 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the highest disabling injury rate at 4.02 per 100 person-years worked.

Table 11.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by Size[12] of Employer — Alberta: 2008

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	Person-Years Worked	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injuries	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate
Less than 10 person-years worked	144	208	15	17	7.20	8.16
10 to 19 person-years worked	12	175	10	10	5.72	5.72
20 to 39 person-years worked	10	255	12	18	4.71	7.06
40 to 99 person-years worked	8	492	14	40	2.85	8.13
100 or more person-years worked	29	9,635	95	285	0.99	2.96
Unspecified	2	N/A*	9	9	N/A*	N/A*

* These are employers with no payroll information
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of Injury Claims

Table 11.3 presents figures for the proportion of employers in the Forest Product Manufacturing industries with no lost-time claims and the proportion of employers with no disabling injury claims. Table 11.4 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

In 2008, 72% of employers had no lost-time claims and 68% had no disabling injury claims, meaning the injuries and diseases happening in the province are the result of incidents occurring at the operations of around 30% of employers (see Table 11.3). For all sectors in the province, 93% of employers submitted no lost-time claims and 92% no disabling injury claims.

[12] Size is measured in terms of person-years worked.

These figures however, are influenced by employer size. In 2008, the number of employers with no lost-time or disabling injury claims translates to approximately 14% and 3% of the total person-years worked in the Forest Product Manufacturing industries respectively.

Table 11.3
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims – Forest Products Manufacturing Industries: 2008

Proportion of Employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forest Products Manufacturing Industries	72%	68%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For employers with submitted claims, 47% submitted one lost-time claim, 42% two to five claims and 11% over six lost-time claims. For disabling injury claims, similar proportions exist (see Table 4.4) although 33% submitted more than six disabling injury claims.

Employers who submitted one to five lost-time claims and employers who submitted one to five disabling injury claims accounted for around 70% and 41% of the total person-years worked in the Forest Product Manufacturing industries respectively. Employers who submitted over six lost-time claims and employers who submitted over six disabling injury claims accounted for approximately 16% and 56% of the total person-years worked in the Forest Product Manufacturing industries.

Table 11.4
Proportion of Employers with Claims – Forest Products Manufacturing Industries: 2008

1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
47%	42%	11%	0%
1 Disabling Injury Claim	**2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims**	**6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims**	**Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims**
31%	37%	25%	8%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims for the Forest Product Manufacturing Industries

Over the period 2004 to 2008, the Treating of Timber sub-sector had the highest lost-time claim rate each year, except in 2004, when the Sawmills and Planing Mills sub-sector had the highest rate at 2.60 per 100 person-years. The Treating of Timber sub-sector has a small number of accounts and claims which makes the claim rates volatile.

Although the Treating of Timber sub-sector had the highest lost-time claim rate at 7.17 and disabling injury rate at 11.15 per 100 person-years worked, the Sawmills and Planing Mills sub-sector accounted for 74.8% of the lost-time claims, 71.5% of disabling injury claims and 51.2% of the person-years worked in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.

Table 12.1

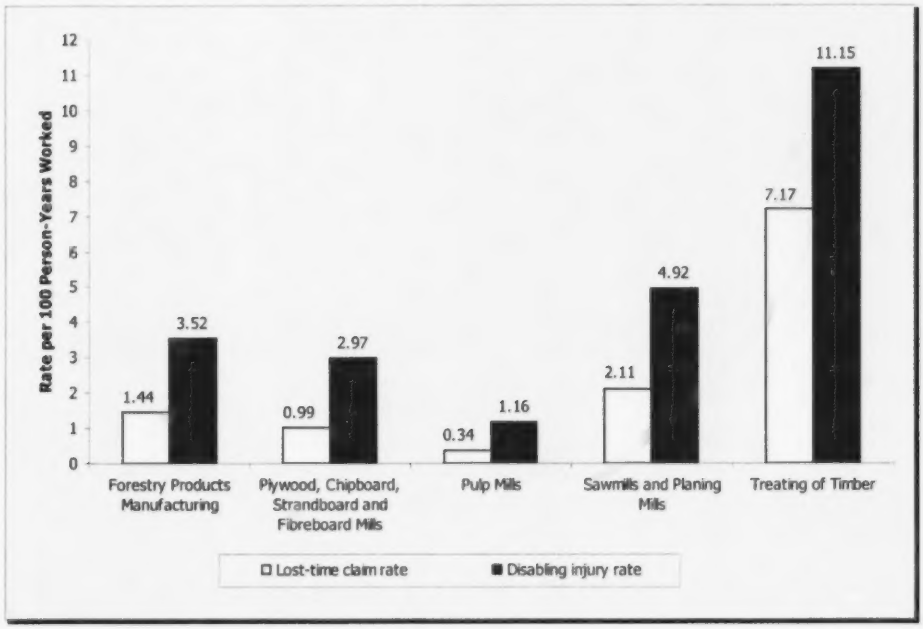
Lost-Time Claim Rate for the Forest Products Manufacturing Industries[13] – Alberta: 2004-2008

Sub-Sector	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Forest Products Manufacturing	**1.69**	**2.14**	**1.93**	**1.82**	**1.44**
Sawmills and Planing Mills	2.60	2.89	3.11	2.83	**2.11**
Treating of Timber	1.85	10.10	7.95	7.25	**7.17**
Pulp Mills	0.37	0.70	0.43	0.45	**0.34**
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	1.25	1.88	1.05	0.97	**0.99**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[13] The Peeling and Pointing of Posts industry had no claims over the last five years and low person-years so have been removed from the analysis.

Chart 12.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate and Disabling Injury Rates for the Forest Products Manufacturing Industries[14] – Alberta: 2008



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Sawmills and Planing Mills

In 2008, the lost-time claim rate for the Sawmill and Planing Mills sub-sector decreased by 25.6%, to 2.11 per 100 person-years worked. The decrease was caused by the number of claims decreasing by an even greater amount than the person-years worked. Lost-time claims decreased by 32.6% and the person-years worked by 9.3%. The disabling injury rate decreased by 23.8% to 4.92 per 100 person-years worked. The duration rate decreased from 56 days lost per 100 person-years worked to 50 (see Table 12.2).

Since 2004, this sub-sector has seen a 19.1% decrease in the lost-time claim rate. The average decrease for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was 14.8% and for all sectors of the province 26.2%.

[14] Peeling and Pointing of Posts had no lost-time claims or disabling injuries in 2008 and are excluded from the analysis.

Table 12.2
Sawmills and Planing Mills – Alberta: 2007-2008

	2007	2008	% Change
Person-years worked	6,075	**5,508**	-9.3%
Lost-time claims	172	**116**	-32.6%
Lost-time claim rate	**2.83**	**2.11**	**-25.6%**
Modified work claims	286	**241**	-15.7%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	66	**86**	30.3%
Disabling injury claims	392	**271**	-30.9%
Disabling injury rate	**6.45**	**4.92**	**-23.8%**
Duration rate	56	**50**	-9.9%
Days lost (LTC)	3,403	**2,780**	-18.3%
Compensation payments (LTC)	$1,217,377	**$1,036,583**	-14.9%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Treating of Timber

The lost-time claim rate for the Treating of Timber sub-sector decreased by 1.2% to 7.17 per 100 person-years worked in 2008, and the disabling injury rate increased by 6.4% to 11.15 per 100 person-years worked. These were the highest injury rates in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries in 2008. This sub-sector has a small number of accounts, person-years worked and injury claims making the injury rates volatile over time. The duration rate in this sub-sector is unavailable due to a low number of lost-time claims (see Table 12.3).

Table 12.3
Treating of Timber – Alberta: 2007-2008

	2007	2008	% Change
Person-years worked	124	**126**	1.2%
Lost-time claims	9	**9**	0.0%
Lost-time claim rate	**7.25**	**7.17**	**-1.2%**
Modified work claims	8	**11**	37.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	4	**6**	50.0%
Disabling injury claims	13	**14**	7.7%
Disabling injury rate	**10.48**	**11.15**	**6.4%**
Duration rate	N/A*	**N/A***	N/A*
Days lost (LTC)	326	**66**	-79.8%
Compensation payments (LTC)	$78,739	**$18,932**	-76.0%

* Duration rates are volatile when based on a few lost-time claims. Duration rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Pulp Mills

In 2008, the lost-time claim rate for Pulp Mills decreased from 0.45 per 100 person-years worked in 2007 to 0.34 in 2008. The disabling injury rate was 1.16 per 100 person-years worked. Both injury rates were the lowest in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries (see Table 12.4).

Since 2004, this sub-sector has seen a 7.2% decrease in the lost-time claim rate. The average decrease for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was 14.8% and for all sectors of the province 26.2%.

Table 12.4
Pulp Mills – Alberta: 2007-2008

	2007	2008	% Change
Person-years worked	3,306	**3,192**	-3.4%
Lost-time claims	15	**11**	-26.7%
Lost-time claim rate	**0.45**	**0.34**	**-24.1%**
Modified work claims	16	**34**	112.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	5	**8**	60.0%
Disabling injury claims	26	**37**	42.3%
Disabling injury rate	**0.79**	**1.16**	**47.4%**
Duration rate	N/A*	**N/A***	N/A*
Days lost (LTC)	451	**197**	-56.3%
Compensation payments (LTC)	$487,790	**$103,905**	-78.7%

* Duration rates are unstable when based on a few lost-time claims. Duration rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills

The lost-time claim rate for the Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills sub-sector increased by 2.3% to 0.99 per 100 person-years worked in 2008. The disabling injury rate decreased by 13.3% to 2.97 per 100 person-years worked.

Since 2004, this sub-sector has seen a 21.0% decrease in the lost-time claim rate. The average decrease for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was 14.8% and for all sectors of the province 26.2%.

Table 12.5
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills – Alberta: 2007-2008

	2007	2008	% Change
Person-years worked	2,689	**1,921**	-28.6%
Lost-time claims	26	**19**	-26.9%
Lost-time claim rate	**0.97**	**0.99**	**2.3%**
Modified work claims	81	**56**	-30.9%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	15	**18**	20.0%
Disabling injury claims	92	**57**	-38.0%
Disabling injury rate	**3.42**	**2.97**	**-13.3%**
Duration rate	19	**11**	-43.5%
Days lost (LTC)	505	**204**	-59.6%
Compensation payments (LTC)	$239,391	**$155,157**	-35.2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of injury claims

Table 12.6 presents figures for the proportion of employers without lost-time claims and the proportion of employers without disabling injury claims, by industry. Table 12.7 displays the respective person-years worked for those employers. Table 12.8 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

In 2008, the Pulp Mills sub-sector displayed higher proportions of employers with no lost-time claims and employers with no disabling injury claims at 80% and 68% (see Table 12.6), indicating a more highly concentrated occurrence of injury in this sub-sector. These figures however, are influenced by employer size. In 2008, the number of employers with no lost-time claims and the number of employers with no disabling injury claims translates to approximately 14% and 3% of the total person-years worked in this sub-sector (see Table 12.7).

Table 12.6
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forest Product Manufacturing Industry – Alberta: 2008

Proportion of Employers by Sub-Sector	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forest Products Manufacturing	**72%**	**68%**
Sawmills and Planing Mills	74%	72%
Treating of Timber	29%	29%
Pulp Mills	80%	68%
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	50%	36%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Table 12.7
Proportion of Person-years accounted for by Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forest Product Manufacturing Industry – Alberta: 2008

Proportion of person-years worked accounted for by employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
Forest Products Manufacturing	**14%**	**3%**
Sawmills and Planing Mills	10%	4%
Treating of Timber	5%	5%
Pulp Mills	23%	1%
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	11%	2%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Table 12.8
Proportion of Employers with Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, by Forest Product Manufacturing Industry – Alberta: 2008

Sub-Sector	1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
Sawmills and Planing Mills	50%	38%	13%	0%
Other Forest Product Manufacturing Industries	41%	53%	6%	0%

Sub-Sector	1 Disabling Injury Claim	2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims	6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims	Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims
Sawmills and Planing Mills	37%	28%	23%	12%
Other Forest Product Manufacturing Industries	18%	55%	27%	0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For the number of employers with submitted claims, the Treating of Timber sub-sector, the Pulp Mills sub-sector, the Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills sub-sector and the Peeling of Posts sub-sector have been grouped together due to the small number of employer accounts.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INJURED WORKERS

Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2008, the Labourers in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities occupation group accounted for 25.5% of lost-time claims, 21.7% of disabling injury claims and 10.5% of those in employment[15] in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. Those employed as Trades Helpers, Construction, and Transportation Labourers and Related Occupations accounted for 22.1% of lost-time claims, 23.4% of disabling injury claims and 3.7% of employment (see Table 13.1).

Table 13.1
Lost-Time Claims and Disabling Injury Claims by Selected Occupation Group — Alberta: 2008

Occupation Group	Lost-time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Employment
Labourers in Processing, Manufacturing and Utilities	25.5%	21.7%	10.5%
Trades Helpers, Construction, and Transportation Labourers and Related Occupations	22.1%	23.4%	3.7%
Machine Operators in Manufacturing	17.2%	16.2%	24.4%
Sales & Service Occupations N.E.C.**	4.1%	3.7%	N/A*
Mechanics	8.3%	11.4%	2.2%
Occupations Unique to Forestry Operations, Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, and Fishing, excluding labourers	2.1%	2.3%	N/A*
Heavy Equipment and Crane Operators Including Drillers	7.6%	5.1%	3.6%

*Employment figures have been suppressed due to issues with sample size.
**Not Elsewhere Classified
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files)

In 2008, workers aged 35 to 54 accounted for 49.0% of the lost-time claims and 43.5% of the disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. Young workers (those aged between 15 and 24 years) accounted for 20.6% of lost-time claims, 23.7% of disabling injury claims and 13.8% of those in employment[16] (see Table 13.2).

[15] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) for the Wood Product and Paper Manufacturing industries.
[16] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (2008 Historical Review) for the Manufacturing (Durables) industry.

Table 13.2
Lost-Time Claims and Disabling Injury Claims by Age — Alberta: 2007-2008

Age	2007 Lost-Time Claims	%	2007 Disabling Injury Claims	%	2008 Lost-Time Claims	%	2008 Disabling Injury Claims	%
15-19 Years	24	10.9%	52	10.0%	**14**	**9.0%**	**35**	**9.2%**
20-24 Years	28	12.7%	79	15.2%	**18**	**11.6%**	**55**	**14.5%**
25-34 Years	42	19.1%	124	23.8%	**29**	**18.7%**	**87**	**23.0%**
35-44 Years	55	25.0%	139	26.7%	**53**	**34.2%**	**104**	**27.4%**
45-54 Years	48	21.8%	93	17.9%	**23**	**14.8%**	**61**	**16.1%**
55-64 Years	18	8.2%	27	5.2%	**14**	**9.0%**	**33**	**8.7%**
65+ Years	5	2.3%	7	1.3%	**4**	**2.6%**	**4**	**1.1%**
Unspecified	2	N/A	2	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	**0**	**N/A**
Total	**222**	**100.0%**	**523**	**100.0%**	**155**	**100.0%**	**379**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Forest Products Manufacturing industries, the majority of claims were from men. In 2008, 76.8% of lost-time claims and 78.0% of disabling injury claims involved men. Men comprised 78.6% of those employed[17] in these industries (see Table 13.3).

Table 13.3
Lost-Time Claims and Disabling Injury Claims by Gender — Alberta: 2007-2008

Gender	2007 Lost-Time Claims	%	2007 Disabling Injury Claims	%	2008 Lost-Time Claims	%	2008 Disabling Injury Claims	%
Women	47	21.3%	100	19.2%	**36**	**23.2%**	**83**	**22.0%**
Men	174	78.7%	422	80.8%	**119**	**76.8%**	**295**	**78.0%**
Unspecified	1	N/A	1	N/A	**0**	**N/A**	**1**	**N/A**
Total	**222**	**100.0%**	**523**	**100.0%**	**155**	**100.0%**	**379**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[17] Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey (2008 Historical Review) for the Manufacturing (Durables) industry.

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS - FOREST PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Struck by objects and overexertion were the most common causes for lost-time and disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the upper extremities becoming the most commonly injured body part.

Nature of Injury or Disease

In 2008, 87.7% of lost-time claims and 92.6% of disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The two most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears, accounting for 40.0% of the lost-time claims and 46.7% of the disabling injury claims and surface wounds and bruises accounting for 14.2% and 14.2% respectively (see Table 14.1).

Note 14.1
Throughout this section, the classifications used are based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease information.

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the Forest Products Manufacturing industries had similar or lower proportions[18] of lost-time claims than the average in most injury categories, indicating a lower probability or likelihood of this type of injury occurring. Systemic diseases and disorders had the highest proportion, 1.8 times the average for all sectors of the province.

For disabling injury claims, systemic diseases and disorders had the highest proportion at 1.6 times the average for all sectors in the province. Open wounds had a proportion of 1.1 times the average for all sectors.

Note 14.2
The CSA standard is designed so that Nature of Injury and Part of Body categories are directly linked when classifying injuries. This is also true for the relationship between the Source of Injury and Type of Event categories.

[18] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forest Products Manufacturing industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 14.1
Nature of Injury or Disease — Forest Products Manufacturing Industries: 2008

Nature of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**136**	**87.7%**	**351**	**92.6%**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	62	40.0%	177	46.7%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	22	14.2%	54	14.2%
Fractures and Dislocations	15	9.7%	31	8.2%
Open Wounds	13	8.4%	45	11.9%
Burns	3	1.9%	6	1.6%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	21	13.5%	38	10.0%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**17**	**11.0%**	**24**	**6.3%**
Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Infectious and Parasitic Disorders	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**1**	**0.6%**	**1**	**0.3%**
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**1**	**0.6%**	**2**	**0.5%**
Nature of Injury - Unknown	**0**	**0.0%**	**1**	**0.3%**
Total	**155**	**100.0%**	**379**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Part of Body Injured

In 2008, the upper extremities were the most common main body part injured, accounting for 30.3% of lost-time claims and 40.1% of disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. This was followed by the trunk at 36.8% and 30.6% of lost-time and disabling injury claims (see Table 14.2).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, injuries to other head parts had the highest proportion[19] of lost-time claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries at 1.5 times the average. Fingers and fingernails had proportion that was 1.1 times higher than the average. For disabling injury claims, these parts of body categories had proportions that were 1.2 and 1.3 times the average for all sectors in the province.

[19] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forest Products Manufacturing industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 14.2
Part of Body Injured — Forest Products Manufacturing Industries: 2008

Part of Body Injured	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Upper Extremities	**47**	**30.3%**	**152**	**40.1%**
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	18	11.6%	56	14.8%
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	17	11.0%	55	14.5%
Other Upper Extremities	12	7.7%	41	10.8%
Trunk	**57**	**36.8%**	**116**	**30.6%**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	32	20.6%	59	15.6%
Other Trunk	25	16.1%	57	15.0%
Lower Extremities	**26**	**16.8%**	**69**	**18.2%**
Leg(s)	16	10.3%	36	9.5%
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	10	6.5%	32	8.4%
Other Lower Extremities	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Head	**18**	**11.6%**	**24**	**6.3%**
Eye(s)	2	1.3%	4	1.1%
Other Head Parts	16	10.3%	20	5.3%
Multiple Body Parts	**5**	**3.2%**	**8**	**2.1%**
Neck, Including Throat	**1**	**0.6%**	**7**	**1.8%**
Body Systems	**1**	**0.6%**	**3**	**0.8%**
Part of Body - Unknown	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Other Body Parts	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Total	**155**	**100.0%**	**379**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Source of Injury or Disease

In 2008, two primary sources of injury in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries accounted for over half of lost-time and disabling injury claims. Parts and materials accounted for 32.3% and 30.6%, and persons, plants, animals and minerals 20.6% and 22.7% respectively (see Table 14.3).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, injuries caused by parts and materials had the highest proportion[20] of lost-time claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries at 2.2 times the average. Machinery and other sources had proportions that were 1.5 and 1.3 times higher than the average. For disabling injury claims, these parts of body categories had proportions that were 2.1, 1.5 and 1.1 times the average for all sectors in the province.

[20] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forest Products Manufacturing industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 14.3
Source of Injury or Disease — Forest Products Manufacturing Industries: 2008

Source of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Parts and Materials	**50**	**32.3%**	**116**	**30.6%**
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**32**	**20.6%**	**86**	**22.7%**
Person - Injured or Ill Worker	29	18.7%	72	19.0%
Person - Other Than Injured or Ill Worker*	0	0.0%	1	0.3%
Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	2	1.3%	4	1.1%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals	1	0.6%	9	2.4%
Structures and Surfaces	**16**	**10.3%**	**35**	**9.2%**
Machinery	**16**	**10.3%**	**29**	**7.7%**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**7**	**4.5%**	**41**	**10.8%**
Hand tools - Nonpowered	5	3.2%	17	4.5%
Hand tools - Powered	0	0.0%	10	2.6%
Other Tools and Equipment	2	1.3%	14	3.7%
Vehicles	**8**	**5.2%**	**12**	**3.2%**
Containers**	**3**	**1.9%**	**9**	**2.4%**
Furniture and Fixtures	**1**	**0.6%**	**4**	**1.1%**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**3**	**1.9%**	**5**	**1.3%**
Other Sources	**14**	**9.0%**	**22**	**5.8%**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**5**	**3.2%**	**20**	**5.3%**
Total	**155**	**100.0%**	**379**	**100.0%**

* Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies workplace injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.
** Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.).
Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Type of Event or Exposure

In 2008, two types of events or exposures comprised about three-quarters of lost-time and disabling injury claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. Contact with objects and equipment accounted for 40.0% and 41.2%, followed by bodily reaction and exertion at 31.6% and 36.7% of claims (see Table 14.4).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, injuries caused by caught in object had the highest proportion[21] of lost-time claims in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries at 2.5 times the average. Other contact with object/equipment and exposure to harmful substances had proportions that were 2.1 and 1.2 times higher than the average. For disabling injury claims, these types of event categories had proportions that were 2.0, 1.4 and 1.2 times the average for all sectors in the province.

[21] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the Forest Products Manufacturing industries' claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type, against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 14.4
Type of Event or Exposure — Forest Products Manufacturing Industries: 2008

Type of Event or Exposure	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injuries	%
Contact with Objects or Equipment	**62**	**40.0%**	**156**	**41.2%**
Struck by Object	21	13.5%	59	15.6%
Caught in Object	22	14.2%	46	12.1%
Struck against Object	11	7.1%	38	10.0%
Rubbed or Abraded	1	0.6%	2	0.5%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	7	4.5%	11	2.9%
Bodily Reaction or Exertion	**49**	**31.6%**	**139**	**36.7%**
Overexertion	19	12.3%	63	16.6%
Bodily Reaction*	23	14.8%	48	12.7%
Repetitive Motion	4	2.6%	21	5.5%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	3	1.9%	7	1.8%
Falls	**22**	**14.2%**	**46**	**12.1%**
Fall on Same Level	14	9.0%	33	8.7%
Fall to Lower Level	7	4.5%	11	2.9%
Other Falls	1	0.6%	2	0.5%
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**14**	**9.0%**	**20**	**5.3%**
Transportation Accidents	**4**	**2.6%**	**7**	**1.8%**
Fires and Explosions	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Assaults and Violent Acts	**1**	**0.6%**	**3**	**0.8%**
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	1	0.6%	3	0.8%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Events or Exposures	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Type of Event - Unknown	**3**	**1.9%**	**8**	**2.1%**
Total	**155**	**100.0%**	**379**	**100.0%**

* Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Duration of Disability

Duration of disability[22] is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. The efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce also have a positive impact on workdays lost.

In 2008, 54.2% of lost-time claims lasted for 10 days or less. Lost-time claims resulting in 31 days lost or more accounted for 18.1% (see Table 14.5). For all sectors in the province, those claims resulting in one to ten days lost accounted for 55.2% of total claims, while those claims which resulted in 31 or more days lost accounted for 20.5%.

The median days lost in 2008 for the Forest Products Manufacturing industries was the same as the median days lost for all sectors at seven. The average days lost of 21 was lower than the average figure for all sectors of 22.

Table 14.5
Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2008

Duration of Disability	% of Forest Product Manufacturing Industries' Lost-Time Claims	% of Lost-Time Claims in the Province
1-5 Days	38.7%	40.9%
6-10 Days	15.5%	14.3%
11-15 Days	8.4%	7.6%
16-20 Days	6.5%	5.0%
21-30 Days	6.5%	6.7%
31-40 Days	1.3%	4.7%
41-50 Days	3.2%	3.2%
51 Days or More	13.5%	12.6%
Unspecified	6.5%	4.8%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[22] The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2008 the WCB accepted no fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.

A WCB accepted occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker resulting from a work-related incident or exposure which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. The WCB classifies occupational fatalities into three general types:

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. Between 2004 and 2008, there were no motor vehicle incident fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries (see Table 15.1).

Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consist of cases in which the worker died at a worksite or as a result of injuries sustained at a worksite. This is the type of fatality that E&I typically investigates. Between 2004 and 2008, there were two workplace fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries accepted by the WCB (see Table 15.1).

Latent Workplace and Motor Vehicle Fatalities

Latent fatalities consist of workers who were involved in a workplace incident or exposure, or a motor vehicle incident that did not become a fatality until a much later date, often years later. These incidents were classified as occupational diseases. From 2002, these incidents are separated out and included with either motor vehicle or workplace incident categories in accordance to their original injury.

Usually, other contributing factors cause a latent fatality, although these contributing factors are the result of the initial injury or exposure. A motor vehicle incident where a worker received leg injuries requiring surgery is a good example of this. Complications during the surgery result in a blood clot causing a fatal stroke. Thus, the injury is classified latent because the original injury caused the requirement for surgery. In 2008, there were no latent fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.

Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related such as asbestosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis. This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed several years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance, and in such cases, it is difficult to determine when the fatal

exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present worksite hazardous conditions or exposures.*

Each year the WCB accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Occupational fatality claims that were accepted in a particular year may include fatalities from prior years. Between 2004 and 2008, there were four occupational disease fatalities accepted by the WCB in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries (see Table 15.1).

Table 15.1
Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB – Forest Products Manufacturing: 2004 - 2008

Year	Motor Vehicle Incident	Workplace Incident	Occupational Disease	Total
2004	0	0	0	0
2005	0	2	0	2
2006	0	0	1	1
2007	0	0	3	3
2008	**0**	**0**	**0**	0
Total	0	2	4	6

Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2004 and 2008, the WCB accepted six fatalities in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries. The Pulp Mills sub-sector had three fatalities while the Sawmills and Planing Mills sub-sector had three (see Table 15.2).

Table 15.2
Forest Products Manufacturing Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB by Sub-Sector – Alberta: 2004 - 2008

Sub-Sector	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Peeling and Pointing of Posts	0	0	0	0	**0**	0
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	0	0	0	0	**0**	0
Pulp Mills	0	0	0	3	**0**	3
Sawmills and Planing Mills	0	2	1	0	**0**	3
Treating of Timber	0	0	0	0	**0**	0
Forest Products Manufacturing Industries	**0**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**0**	**6**

Data Source: WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION – FOREST PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

In 2008, 17.6% of Forest Products Manufacturing industries' employers were COR holders. These employers represented 84.3% of all person-years worked in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries.

The Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills sub-sector had the highest proportion of COR holders with 42.9% of employers certified, covering 86.3% of the person-years in this sub-sector. The Pulp Mills sub-sector had a comparatively smaller proportion of employers certified but these employers accounted for 82.1% of the all person-years worked in this sub-sector (see Table 16.1).

Table 16.1
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2008

Sub-Sector	Number of Certified Employers	Total Number of Employers	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
Forest Products Manufacturing	**36**	**205**	**17.6%**	**84.3%**
Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills	6	14	42.9%	86.3%
Pulp Mills	6	25	24.0%	82.1%
Sawmills and Planing Mills	23	159	14.5%	85.6%
Treating of Timber	1	7	14.3%	48.4%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the Forest Products Manufacturing industries, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders was 1.01 per 100 person-years worked in 2008, while the rate for non-COR holders was 3.72. For disabling injury rates, COR holders had a rate of 3.21 per 100 person-years worked, while the rate for non-COR holders was 5.19 (see Table 8.2).

A low lost-time claim rate and high disabling injury rate can be indicative of proficient claims management. However, it may also be a reflection of larger employers having greater capacity to offer modified duties to injured workers than smaller employers.

Comparing COR holders against all non-COR holders provides useful information about each group, although it does not compare like-with-like. A COR is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards, with this group seeing continued improvement in their lost-time claim rates. Some non-COR holders have good

programs in place above this standard, whereas others do not. This makes evaluating improving health and safety trends less clear for this group.

The two groups also differ significantly in employer structure and size. COR holders account for 17.6% of employers in the Forest Products Manufacturing industries (see Table 16.1) but 84.3% of the person-years worked. Analysis by employer size for all sectors of the province show smaller employers tend to have better health and safety performance than medium-sized and large employers. For the Forest Products Manufacturing industries a different pattern is displayed with smaller employers displaying the highest lost-time claim rates (see Table 11.2).

Table 16.2
Lost-Time Claim Rate for Forest Products Manufacturing COR Holders – Alberta: 2007 and 2008

Employer	Year	Number of Accounts	Person-Years Worked	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Change in Lost-Time Claim Rate	Change in Disabling Injury Rate
COR	2007	39	10,305	146	414	1.42	4.02	-28.4%	-20.1%
	2008	36	9,071	92	291	1.01	3.21		
Non-COR	2007	192	1,903	76	109	3.99	5.73	-6.9%	-9.3%
	2008	169	1,694	63	88	3.72	5.19		

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

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APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

Lost-Time Claim

A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to have time away from work beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function.

Modified Work Claim

A modified work claim is a claim for an occupational injury or disease where a worker had their normal work duties altered to enable them to remain working without losing time from work. Also included are claims where injured workers are helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease.

Disabling Injury Claim

Disabling injury (DI) claims combine both the lost-time and modified work concepts to produce an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables the worker causing either time-lost from work or for their normal work duties to be modified.

Person-Years Worked

Person-years worked are estimates calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Alberta Employment and Immigration uses data to estimate an average industry wage, and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years worked for each employer and each industry. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

Lost-Time Claim Rate

The lost-time claim rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-year estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work, which will result in time lost from work. Comparisons of lost-time claim rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTC's}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$$

Disabling Injury Rate

The disabling injury rate is calculated by dividing the number of disabling injury claims by the person-year estimates, and multiplying the result by 100. The disabling injury rate represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year of work. The disabling injury rate is similar to the LTC rate although it covers a broader range of injuries, including those that are less severe in nature (do not require time away from work). The rate represents the number of claims per 100 person-years worked and includes claims made for both lost-time and modified work.

$$\text{Disabling Injury Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of DI's}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$$

Duration (Days lost)

The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from the WCB. Alberta Employment and Immigration obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.

Duration Rate

The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of workdays lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as days lost per 100 person-years worked, and indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

$$\text{Duration Rate} = \frac{\text{Disability Days}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$$

Industry Coverage

About 80% of employed persons in Alberta are covered by WCB. This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and parts of the agriculture and finance sectors. Several professional groups (i.e. the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.

WCB Accepted Fatality

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.

Fatality Rate

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years worked estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years worked. Fatalities that are found under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada are excluded before the calculation of the fatality rate.

$$\text{Fatality Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Fatalities}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 1{,}000{,}000$$

Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average

The number of times higher/lower than the provincial average is used to compare the performance of the industries with the province regarding specific injury or disease. A number less than one indicates that the injury of the industries is lower than the provincial average; if equal to one it indicates the injury of the industries is the same as the provincial average and a number greater than one indicates that the injury of the industries is higher than the provincial average.

$$\frac{\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Industries} \times \text{Industries' LTC Rate}}{\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Province} \times \text{Provincial LTC Rate}}$$

Where:

$$\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Industries} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Industries (e.g. back injury)}}{\text{Total LTCs for the Industries}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Province} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Province (e.g. back injury)}}{\text{Total LTCs for the Province}} \times 100$$

Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey carried out monthly by Statistics Canada. The objectives of the LFS have been to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive classifications - employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force - and to provide descriptive and explanatory data on each of these categories.

Data from the survey provide information on major labour market trends such as shifts in employment across industrial sectors, hours worked, labour force participation and unemployment rates.

For the most part, annual LFS data has been analyzed alongside injury and disease information to aid the understanding of injury risk or frequency by worker type. The LFS uses a different industry classification from WCB, although there are similarities in structure. Where possible, the two data sources are used comparably and proportions (of totals) have been used to evaluate information generated from both sources. Using proportions attempts to overcome obvious distortions in the numbers in employment from both sources, although the impact on the proportions from industry coverage differences is unclear. In certain instances, monthly LFS micro-data files have been combined and used to produce proportion estimates for the whole year for particular sub-groups of the population.

For further information on the LFS, please see
http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/2599.html

APPENDIX B: FORESTRY AND RELATED INDUSTRIES WCB CODES

1. Forestry

03100 – Logging and Woodlands Operations, including Trucking of Logs
03902 – Timber Management

2. Forest Products Manufacturing

25100 – Sawmills and Planing Mills
25900 – Peeling and Pointing of Posts
25901 – Treating of Timber
27102 – Pulp Mills
27103 – Plywood, Chipboard, Strandboard and Fibreboard Mills

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Employment and Immigration website:

http://employment.alberta.ca

Work Safe Alberta website:

www.worksafely.org

Occupational Health and Safety Contact Centre:

Telephone: 780-415-8690, toll free by calling 1-866-415-8690

http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/2874.html

Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program:

http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/334.html